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## Memorandum

To: Healthcare Providers  
Health Insurers  
Health Plans

From: Robert W. Morrison, Vaccine Manager

Date: March 2006

Subject: Rotavirus Vaccine for Children

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On February 3, 2006, the Food and Drug Administration licensed a live, oral, pentavalent rotavirus vaccine, RotaTeq™, manufactured by Merck and Co., Inc. This vaccine is approved for the prevention of rotavirus gastroenteritis in infants and children when administered as a 3-dose series to infants between the ages of 6 to 32 weeks.

### **Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Recommendations**

On February 21, 2006 the ACIP voted to recommend infants receive three doses of rotavirus vaccine at two, four, and six months of age. The first dose should be given by 12 weeks of age, and all doses must be received by 32 weeks of age. RotaTeq™ is the only vaccine approved in the United States for prevention of rotavirus gastroenteritis.

The final ACIP recommendations for the use of rotavirus vaccine have not been published but the press release regarding the recommendations can be found at

<http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/pressrel/r060221.htm>.

### **Rotavirus Vaccine Supplied by Massachusetts Department of Public Health**

At the current time, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) is not supplying rotavirus vaccine.

The current procedural terminology (CPT) code for RotaTeq™ is 90680. Since providers will need to purchase rotavirus vaccine privately for the immunization of children 6-32 weeks old, this code should be used for reimbursement.

We will keep you updated on the availability of state-supplied rotavirus vaccine. If you have any questions regarding vaccine availability please contact the MDPH Vaccine Management Unit at 617-983-6828.